

N E W S R E L E A S E

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\$1.25M grant will help 450 Humboldt County residents, including laid-off workers and returning veterans, find high-wage jobs in growing industries

SACRAMENTO – A newly approved state grant of \$1.25 million will help 450 workers in Humboldt County, including veterans coming home from war in Iraq and Afghanistan and recently laid-off local workers, find jobs in high-growth industries that offer above average wages and good opportunities for advancement.

“The \$1.25 million grant is part of our continuous efforts to help workers, including veterans, find employment and begin new careers in industries where demand for workers is high and the pay is good,” said Patrick Henning, Director of the California Employment Development Department. “This money provides vital job services and intensive training for 450 workers, 80 of whom are veterans returning to civilian life.”

The training and other services will focus on placing workers in high-growth industries on the North Coast such as in health care, construction and maintenance, investment support services, management and innovation services, and small specialized manufacturing.

More than 300 Humboldt County workers have lost their jobs in a series of layoffs in the timber, agriculture and retail industries since last June. Massive new job cuts are looming as the financial difficulties of two major area employers threaten to cost another 525 workers their jobs.

The grant comes from Workforce Investment Act funds drawn from the Governor’s 25 percent portion of dislocated worker funds from Title I of the federal Workforce Investment Act. The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency’s Employment Development Department exercises oversight authority for the funds.

For more information about this project, contact the Humboldt County Workforce Investment Board at 707-445-7745.

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